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SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETINGS OF HOGS, PRICE RECEIVED BY PRODUCERS, AND FARM SALES, 1909-44

INDEX NUMBERS (1910-14=100)



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 34406 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Cash receipts from farm marketings of hogs, pork, and lard in 1944, estimated at 2.8 billion dollars, were 5 percent below the record high of a year earlier, but were the second highest in the 36 years of record. The average price of hogs in 1944 was about 70 cents per 100 pounds lower than in 1943. The quantity sold was about the same as in 1943. Receipts in 1944 were over 3 times as high as the average for 1935-39.

Cash receipts from hog marketings in 1945 probably will be 10 to 15 percent lower than in 1944. Marketings will be materially smaller, but prices probably will average higher than in 1944.

PRODUCTION OF MEAT ANIMALS ON FARMS AND RANCHES, LIVE WEIGHT*, 1909-44

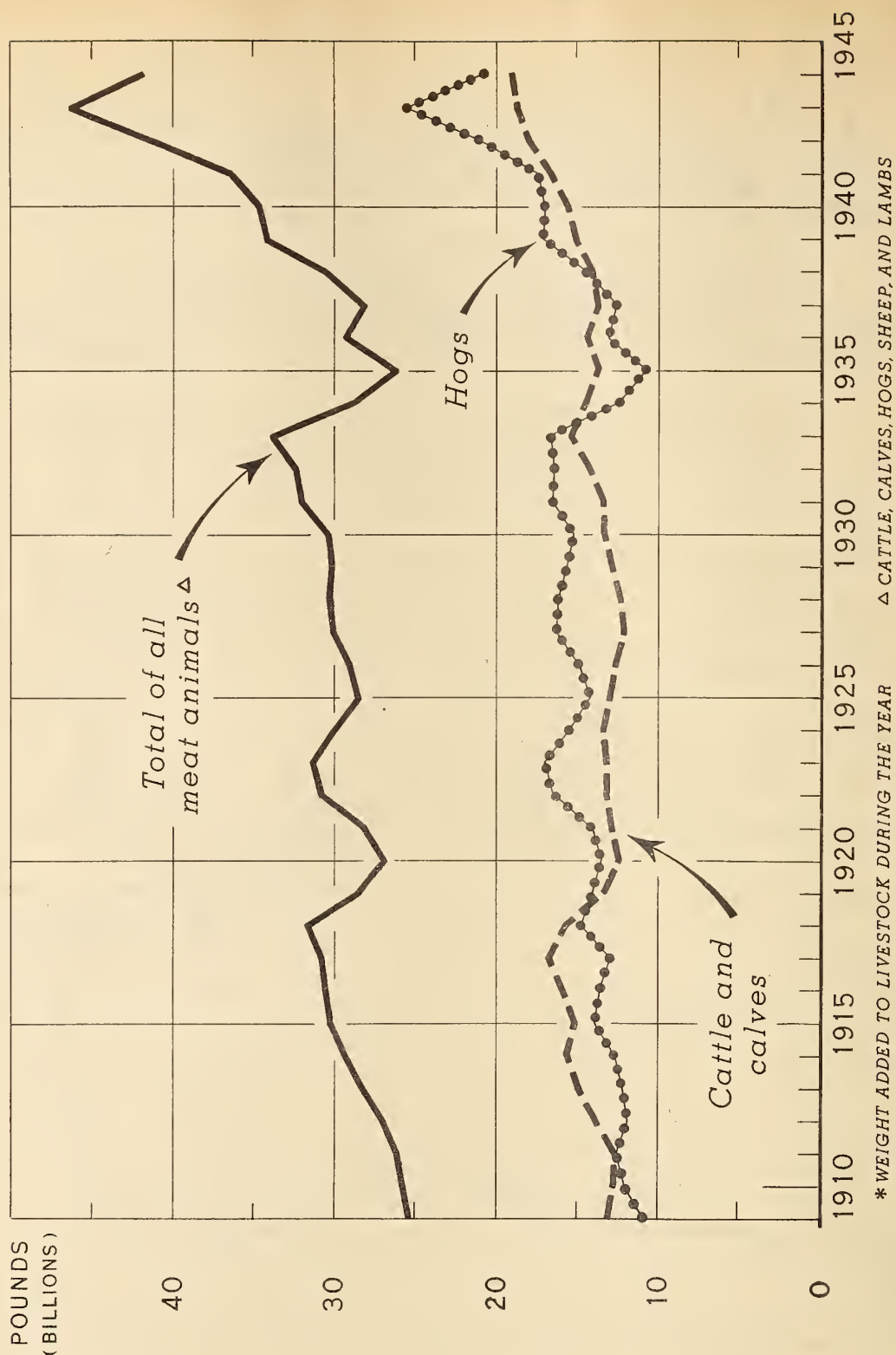


FIGURE 1.

Liveweight production of meat animals on farms and ranches in 1944 was estimated to be almost 41.8 billion pounds, a decline of 10 percent from the record high of 1943. A decline of 18 percent in hog production and a 7 percent smaller production of sheep and lambs in 1944 more than offset a 2 percent liveweight gain in cattle and calves. Despite a smaller liveweight production of meat animals in 1944, meat production was an all-time high, accompanying an increase in farm marketings of hogs and cattle. Liveweight production of meat animals in 1944 was 24 percent above that of 1933 and 32 percent above the peak for World War I in 1918. Liveweight production of meat animals in 1945 probably will be slightly less than in 1944, with most of the reduction in hogs.

 THE LIVESTOCK AND WOOL SITUATION

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SUMMARY

Prices of meat animals probably will be maintained at or near present high levels through the remainder of 1945 and in early 1946. Demand for meat is expected to continue strong, and the supply will continue to be less than the wartime peak supply reached in 1944.

Meat procurement by the armed forces and Government purchases of meat for liberated areas and lend-lease shipment are expected to continue large this year. Noncivilian purchases in 1944, including commercial exports and shipments, totaled 5.6 billion pounds, wholesale dressed-meat basis. Tentative estimates of meat to be purchased for noncivilian uses in 1945 total about 6.5 billion pounds, with increased requirements of the armed forces of 1 billion pounds more than offsetting smaller lend-lease procurement.

Total meat output during the first half of 1945 apparently will be at least 12 percent less than in the corresponding period a year earlier. Production during the summer will continue relatively low. But output during the last quarter of 1945 is likely to be nearly equal to that of the corresponding quarter a year earlier. Total meat production for the year is now indicated at around 22.5 billion pounds (wholesale dressed-meat basis), 9 percent less than the record output in 1944.

A continuing favorable hog-corn price ratio and a prospective above-average carry-over of feed grains at the end of this feeding year probably will result in a larger pig crop this fall than the 31.3 million pigs saved last fall. Meat production in the spring and summer of 1946 may be moderately larger than in the same period this year.

Cash receipts by farmers for farm sales of meat animals and meat in 1944 were estimated at 5,706 million dollars, 3 percent less than the record receipts in 1943, but larger than in any other year. Sales of meat animals, in terms of liveweight, were 4 percent greater than in 1943, but prices for all classes of meat animals in 1944 fell below 1943 levels. Cash receipts from farm sales of meat animals in 1945 are likely to be somewhat lower in total than in 1944. Marketings will be materially less, mainly because of a sharp decline in hog sales, and the smaller volume of sales of meat animals probably will not be fully offset by higher prices.

The Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion recently announced programs to encourage increased feeding of beef cattle, to increase the margins for processors of meat, and to improve meat distribution. The primary features of the programs are: (1) The payment of a special subsidy of 50 cents per 100 pounds to sellers of prime, choice, and good grade cattle weighing 800 pounds or more which have been owned by the seller for 30 days or more, (2) the announcement that downward revisions in the over-riding ceiling prices or in the maximum of the stabilization price ranges for beef cattle, except bulls, will not be made without at least 6 months advance notice, (3) subsidy payment rates to cattle slaughterers will be increased 25 cents per 100 pounds for all grades. (4) Government purchases of meat will be prorated among individual slaughterers, based upon the quantity of meat produced in relation to production in a base period, rather than on the basis of the uniform percentage set asides now in effect.

United States mill consumption of apparel wool will continue large through 1945. Even if Army purchases of wool fabrics are reduced following the end of the European war, total production of military fabrics in 1945 will be considerably larger than in 1944. As little decline is anticipated in civilian consumer demand, and as large quantities of goods will be needed to replenish inventories of civilian goods, total military and civilian demand seems likely to be large enough to support a 1945 consumption at least equal to the 1944 consumption of 1 billion pounds, grease basis. Since the summer of 1944, a larger proportion of new wool and wool tops and smaller proportions of reused and reprocessed wool, shoddy and other fibers have been used by the apparel wool industry. This increase led to a new record high rate of raw wool consumption in February 1945, although spindle activity in the industry had declined about 16 percent from the previous high.

Remaining supplies of foreign stockpile wool owned by the Defense Supplies Corporation have been withdrawn from public sale and probably will be shipped to foreign countries under lend-lease arrangements. Some wool from the British owned stockpile in the United States has been sold by the British Government to France and Belgium and is now being shipped to those countries.

—May 19, 1945

OUTLOOK

BACKGROUND.— The annual pig crop, which increased each year from the low level of 62.5 million head in 1937 to the record crop of 121.7 million in 1943, was reduced sharply in 1944. The 1944 spring crop totaled 55 million head, a reduction of 25 percent from a year earlier. The 1944 fall crop, estimated at 31 million head, was 34 percent below that of 1943. An analysis of farmers' reported intentions (about December 1, 1944) indicated a probable 1945 spring pig crop of 52 million head, if an average number of pigs is saved per litter.

Cattle numbers increased sharply in 1938-43 until on January 1, 1944, numbers were at a record high of 82.4 million head, 8.0 million head greater than the previous pre-war high at the beginning of 1934. Numbers declined 1 percent in 1944, with all of the reduction occurring in the number of calves and young dairy heifers.

An estimated 4.2 million cattle were on feed for market on January 1, 1945, as against 4.0 million a year earlier and 4.4 million, the all-time high of January 1, 1943. On April 1 an estimated 8 percent more cattle -- equivalent to around 150,000 head more -- were on feed in the 11 Corn Belt States than a year earlier. However, fewer cattle were on feed than on any other April 1 since 1940.

Total stock sheep numbers on January 1, 1945 were estimated at 41.3 million head, 9 percent less than a year earlier and the lowest since the beginning of 1928. The early spring lamb crop this year was estimated to be 6 percent less than a year earlier. The total lamb crop of 1944 was estimated at 29.2 million head, 7 percent less than in 1943. It was the smallest lamb crop since 1935.

Meat Production in 1945 to be About
9 Percent Less Than in 1944

Meat output in 1945 probably will total around 22.5 billion pounds, (wholesale dressed-meat basis), 9 percent less than the record production of 24.6 billion pounds in 1944. Output at a 22-1/2-billion pound level in 1945 would be about 39 percent above the average of 16.2 billion pounds for 1935-39. Most of the decrease in production this year from last will be in pork. Production of pork for the year is now estimated at around 10.3 billion pounds, about 20 percent less than the large production in 1944, but 40 percent greater than the average for 1935-39. Output of lamb and mutton this year is indicated at around 930 million pounds, 9 percent less than in 1944, but 7 percent greater than the pre-war average. On the other hand, production of beef and veal for the year is now indicated at around 11.2 billion pounds, approximately 5 percent more than in 1944 and 41 percent above the average for 1935-39.

Total meat output during the first quarter of 1945 apparently was about 11 percent less than in the corresponding period a year earlier. Production will continue smaller than a year ago during the spring and summer. During the last quarter of 1945, meat output will be more nearly equal to that of a year earlier. The spring pig crop is likely to be smaller this year than last (as indicated by the December intentions report), but the decrease probably will be comparatively small.

A continuing favorable hog-corn price ratio, and a prospective above-average carry-over of feed grains at the end of this feeding year may be expected to result in a larger pig crop next fall than the 31.3 million pigs saved in the fall of 1944. This will depend in part, however, on the prospects for feed-grain crops this summer. With a larger 1945 fall pig crop and a probable large slaughter of cattle and calves, meat production in the spring and summer of 1946 is likely to be moderately larger than in the spring and summer this year.

A fall pig crop goal of 37 million pigs has been announced, an increase of 18 percent over the number saved last fall. If the goal is achieved, the fall pig crop would be exceeded only by the record fall crop of 1943 totaling 47.7 million and the near record 1942 fall crop of 43.7 million.

Hog Slaughter to be Sharply Lower This Year
Than Last; Cattle Slaughter Larger

Total hog slaughter during the first 4 months of 1945 apparently was about 30 percent smaller than a year earlier. Slaughter in comparable federally-inspected plants was reduced 48 percent from a year earlier, but nonfederally-inspected-plant slaughter was larger. A seasonal increase in hog slaughter is likely in June as 1944 fall pigs come to market in volume. But the supply of hogs for slaughter in June-September will be materially less than a year earlier. If the 1945 spring pig crop turns out about as previously indicated, slaughter of hogs during the last quarter of the year will be moderately less than a year ago.

Cattle and calf slaughter in 1945 may be larger than the 33.7 million head slaughtered in 1944. Total cattle and calf slaughter in the first quarter of the year apparently was about 16 percent greater than a year earlier, with an increased proportion of the slaughter occurring in noninspected plants. Marketings of fed cattle during April-September probably will be larger than a year earlier. The number of cattle on feed in the 11 Corn Belt States on April 1 was 8 percent greater than a year earlier. A subsidy of 50 cents per 100 pounds on sales of good to prime slaughter cattle, beginning May 19, may offer some inducement for increased grain feeding of cattle. Range feed condition in the 17 Western States is much better than a year ago, with the most marked improvement in condition reported in the Southern Great Plains and the Southwest. Soil moisture in most sections of the country is generally ample, with good prospects for late spring and early summer feed. Condition of cattle is reported better than a year earlier. If weather continues favorable, grass-fat cattle will be ready for market earlier than usual this year and perhaps in heavier volume than last year. Grass cattle marketings through the rest of the year are expected to be large, as ranchmen and farmers are tending to reduce numbers of breeding stock. Slaughter of cows and heifers represented 48 percent of the total cattle slaughter under Federal inspection during the first 4 months of 1945, compared with 43 percent for the corresponding period in each of the last 3 years.

Sheep and lamb slaughter was an all-time high for the season in the first 4 months of 1945. But with a reduced lamb crop in prospect because of a smaller number of ewes, slaughter during the remainder of the year is expected to be below that of a year earlier unless liquidation of ewe numbers continues at a more rapid rate than last year.

Condition of early lambs on May 1 was about as good as it ever has been on that date. Shipments of lambs and yearlings from Texas in April were unusually large for the month, reflecting good feed. But total shipments for April-June are not expected to reach the record shipments of a year earlier. Development of early lambs to May 1 in the Pacific Northwest was much poorer than for the country as a whole, and marketings of lambs from that area are expected to be later than usual. California spring lambs are generally in good condition, but most of the crop will be marketed for slaughter within the State.

War Requirements for Meat to
Continue Large

Meat procurement by the armed forces and Government purchases of meat for liberated areas and for lend-lease shipments are expected to continue large this year. Commercial exports and shipments, which represent only a small part of the noncivilian use, probably will be reduced somewhat from a year earlier. Meat purchases by the armed forces and the WFA, together with commercial exports and shipments, totaled 5.6 billion pounds on a dressed-meat basis in 1944, compared with 6.6 billion pounds in 1943 (including imported canned meat purchased by the Army), and 3.7 billion pounds in 1942. Tentative estimates of meat to be purchased in 1945 total about 6.5 billion pounds, with procurement by the armed forces accounting for the increase over 1944. Purchases for shipment to countries receiving lend-lease aid in 1944 will be smaller this year. Some meat probably will be sent to the liberated countries of Europe in the latter part of 1945, although the quantity to be supplied by the United States apparently will be small.

Noncivilian purchases of meat in 1944 totaled less than a year earlier, because of smaller lend-lease purchases. Part of the shipments in 1944 was made from storage stocks of meat accumulated by WFA in 1943. But military procurement was greater in 1944 than in 1943. Of the 1944 noncivilian total, approximately 71 percent was purchased by the armed forces; 27 percent was purchased by the War Food Administration, largely for lend-lease shipment; and about 2 percent represented commercial exports and shipments. The non-civilian "take" in 1944 accounted for 23 percent of the total meat production and 31 percent of the federally inspected output. In 1943 the noncivilian total was equal to 27 percent of the total meat production and 38 percent of the federally inspected total.

Current meat purchases by the WFA are at a comparatively low level. Contracts were let for the purchase of 20.6 million pounds of frozen and cured meats (actual weight) in April, compared with 41.4 million in March and 52.0 million in February. WFA contracted for the purchase of 24.2 million pounds of canned meat in April, as against 18.1 million a month earlier, and 20.3 million in February.

Civilian Meat Supplies Reduced;
Demand Strong

Civilian meat supplies may average only 120-125 pounds per person, wholesale weight, in 1945 compared with about 150 pounds in 1944 and 126 pounds, the average for 1935-39. Civilian supplies of meat during the late spring and summer will be at the lowest level both for the year and for the war period to date. Meat production will be at a seasonal low, and meat stocks are at record low levels.

Demand for meat probably will continue strong in the remaining months of 1945 and in the first part of 1946, despite the possibility of some reduction in consumer income.

Table 1.- Noncivilian purchases of meat and noncivilian purchases as a percentage of federally inspected production, by quarters, 1941-44

Item	Noncivilian purchases 1/ (dressed-meat basis)					Noncivilian purchases as a percentage of federally inspected production				
	Jan.-	Apr.-	July-	Oct.-	Year	Jan.-	Apr.-	July-	Oct.-	Year
	Mar.	June	Sept.	Dec.		Mar.	June	Sept.	Dec.	
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Beef										
1941	60	82	98	102	342	4.9	6.0	6.3	6.4	6.0
1942	135	203	269	353	960	8.8	13.1	16.0	22.2	15.1
1943	489	445	547	557	2,038	33.9	35.5	36.5	31.3	34.1
1944	588	493	437	602	2,120	34.9	32.9	26.0	33.7	31.9
Veal										
1941	5	6	7	8	26	3.9	4.1	4.5	4.7	4.3
1942	16	14	26	31	87	11.7	9.1	14.1	16.1	13.0
1943	36	20	21	46	123	34.0	21.2	12.7	20.0	20.6
1944	29	27	42	48	146	20.7	15.6	14.6	14.7	15.8
Lamb and mutton										
1941	2	4	5	5	16	1.0	2.2	2.7	2.6	2.1
1942	5	6	30	44	85	2.5	3.2	13.2	16.9	9.7
1943	96	54	42	77	269	48.2	27.0	15.8	26.3	28.1
1944	73	27	36	53	189	34.4	13.8	15.9	21.0	21.3
Pork										
1941	45	150	290	341	826	2.8	10.0	22.8	17.6	13.0
1942	348	783	732	688	2,556	18.9	43.3	44.7	30.4	33.8
1943	1,168	1,094	940	784	3,986	54.7	47.6	42.7	29.3	42.8
1944	1,015	846	645	633	3,139	32.7	33.6	37.2	30.1	33.2
Total all meat										
1941	112	242	400	456	1,210	3.5	7.5	12.7	11.7	9.0
1942	504	1,011	1,057	1,116	3,688	13.6	27.2	28.4	25.9	23.9
1943	1,789	1,613	1,550	1,464	6,416	46.1	42.0	37.5	29.4	38.1
1944	1,705	1,393	1,160	1,336	5,594	33.2	31.8	29.5	29.9	31.2

1/ Net WFA purchases, military purchases and commercial exports and shipments; excludes military purchases of imported canned beef in 1943.

Meat Animal Prices to Continue at
or Near Present Levels

Prices for meat animals probably will continue at or near present levels throughout the remainder of this year and are likely to be well maintained.

throughout the first part of 1946. Prices received by farmers for all classes of meat animals will average higher in 1945 than in 1944.

Hog prices probably will continue at ceiling levels for most of 1945. The hog-corn price ratio will probably continue more favorable than a year earlier through the summer at least. Hog prices rose during the summer of 1944 and have been at ceiling levels since last January. Corn prices are now moderately lower than a year earlier and are likely to remain below last year's levels throughout the year, if another large corn crop is produced this year. The carry-over of old corn will be much larger this year than last. The hog-corn price ratio for the United States, farm basis, on May 15, was 13.1 compared with 11.0 a year earlier and 11.4, the average for May 1924-43. The price ratios in mid-April and mid-May this year were the most favorable to hog producers for any month since October 1943.

Table 2.- Prices paid by packers for livestock per 100 pounds, United States, average January-March 1943-45 and April 1943-45

Class and species	Average January-March			April		
	1943	1944	1945	1943	1944	1945
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
All cattle	13.00	12.07	12.24	13.97	12.76	13.67
Steers	14.35	13.91	14.10	15.15	14.46	15.21
Other slaughter cattle	11.42	10.03	10.54	12.28	10.31	11.40
Calves	13.80	12.46	12.31	13.79	12.95	13.68
Sheep and lambs	14.40	14.24	13.91	14.83	14.88	14.81
Hogs	14.96	13.29	14.51	14.91	13.40	14.65

Meat Animal Receipts to Farmers in 1944

Estimated at 5.7 Billion Dollars

Cash receipts by farmers from sales of live cattle, calves, hogs, sheep, and lambs and farm sales of meat in 1944 are estimated at 5,706 million dollars, 3 percent less than in 1943, but greater than in any other year. Cash receipts in 1944 were over 2-1/2 times as large as the average for 1935-39. Farm sales of meat animals were at a record in 1944, totaling 47.9 billion pounds, live-weight, 4 percent greater than in 1943 and 58 percent greater than the pre-war average of 30.4 billion pounds. Prices for all species of meat animals were lower than in 1943.

Cash receipts by farmers for cattle and calves in 1944 of 2,607 million dollars were the highest on record; receipts from farm sales of hogs of 2,796 million dollars were the second highest for any year; and receipts from sheep and lambs, excluding receipts from wool, estimated at 303 million dollars, were exceeded only in 1942 and 1943.

Cash receipts from farm sales of meat animals in 1945 are expected to be somewhat smaller than the near-record receipts in 1944. Sales of meat animals probably will total around 10 percent less on a liveweight basis than in 1944, and increases in prices for all species, with price ceilings in effect, probably will be sufficient to offset the reduced volume of sales.

Most of the reduction in the volume of marketings by farmers in 1945 will be in hogs, reflecting a 29 percent decrease from a year earlier in the number of pigs saved in 1944. Sales of sheep and lambs probably will be smaller than in 1944 also. Cattle marketings are likely to be moderately larger in 1945 than in 1944.

Table 3.- Cash income, sales, and prices received by farmers for meat animals, 1935-39 average, 1941-44 annual, and forecast for 1945

Item	Unit	1935-39	1941	1942	1943	1944 1/	1945 (forecast)
Cash farm income from :	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
meat animals:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Cattle and calves ...:Mil. dol:		1,174	1,718	2,293	2,581	2,607	
Hogs: " "		856	1,301	2,192	2,942	2,796	
Sheep and lambs: " "		166	227	307	342	303	
		<u>2,196</u>	<u>3,246</u>	<u>4,792</u>	<u>5,865</u>	<u>5,706</u>	<u>5,500</u>
Sales of meat and :	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
meat animals:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Cattle and calves :	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
(live weight basis):Mil. lb.:		17,607	19,207	21,142	21,503	23,684	
Hogs (live weight :	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
basis): " "		10,370	14,228	16,697	21,513	21,428	
Sheep and lambs, :	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
(live weight basis): " "		2,380	2,629	2,947	3,043	2,807	
		<u>30,357</u>	<u>36,064</u>	<u>40,786</u>	<u>46,059</u>	<u>47,919</u>	<u>42,500</u>
Average price received:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
by farmers 2/:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Beef cattle (100 lb.): Dol. :		6.51	8.80	10.62	11.90	10.80	
Veal calves (100 lb.): " :		7.75	10.33	12.45	13.50	12.60	
Hogs (100 lb.): " :		8.30	9.09	13.04	13.70	13.10	
Sheep (100 lb.): " :		3.90	5.06	5.78	6.57	6.05	
Lambs (100 lb.): " :		7.81	9.58	11.74	12.90	12.60	
Index of prices :	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
received by farmers :	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
for all meat :	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
animals 3/: — :		119	146	188	209	200	210

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Weighted average; 1935-39 is the simple average of the weighted annual average for each of the 5 years.

3/ August 1909-July 1914 = 100.

Liveweight Production of Meat Animals on Farms and Ranches Reduced

Net liveweight production of meat animals on farms and ranches in 1944 is estimated to have been almost 41.8 billion pounds, a decline of 10 percent from the record high of 1943. This decline resulted from a 4.7 billion pound decrease in the production of hogs and a 0.2 billion pound decrease in production of sheep and lambs, which more than offset a 0.3 billion pound increase in production from cattle and calves.

Liveweight production of meat animals on farms and ranches in 1945 probably will be around 5 percent less than in 1944 largely because of a lower hog production. Net production of cattle and calves probably will not be greatly different from that of 1944. But production from sheep and lambs probably will be smaller in 1945 than in 1944.

Table 4.- Livestock production on farms and ranches, liveweight, United States and regions, averages 1924-28, 1929-33, and 1934-38, annual 1939-44

Year and period:	North Atlantic States	North Central States	South Atlantic States	South Central States	Western States	United States
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Cattle and calves						
Average:						
1924-28:	655	6,825	511	2,458	2,223	12,672
Average:						
1929-33:	757	7,477	580	2,710	2,272	13,796
Average:						
1934-38:	776	7,318	655	2,869	2,459	14,077
1939 :	834	7,909	656	3,162	2,537	15,098
1940 :	837	8,343	661	3,091	2,651	15,583
1941 :	828	9,113	696	3,268	2,813	16,718
1942 :	855	9,749	738	3,562	3,063	17,967
1943 :	862	9,934	844	3,858	3,159	18,707
1944 1/:	880	9,982	919	3,824	3,391	18,996
Hogs						
Average:						
1924-28:	363	11,971	884	1,627	554	15,399
Average:						
1929-33:	299	12,587	896	1,689	576	16,047
Average:						
1934-38:	316	9,020	972	1,788	487	12,583
1939 :	389	12,296	1,209	2,480	708	17,082
1940 :	368	12,748	1,087	2,135	705	17,043
1941 :	329	13,274	1,064	2,100	706	17,473
1942 :	388	15,823	1,240	2,716	887	21,054
1943 :	506	18,930	1,507	3,386	1,141	25,470
1944 1/:	457	15,359	1,378	2,726	861	20,781
Sheep and lambs						
Average:						
1924-28:	46	448	61	181	867	1,603
Average:						
1929-33:	45	610	78	255	918	1,906
Average:						
1934-38:	36	632	61	282	906	1,917
1939 :	29	648	54	315	995	2,041
1940 :	29	670	50	340	998	2,087
1941 :	30	764	51	351	1,071	2,267
1942 :	31	823	51	394	1,033	2,332
1943 :	28	784	48	344	930	2,134
1944 1/:	26	688	46	377	841	1,978

1/ Preliminary.

The liveweight production of cattle and calves in 1944 was estimated to be slightly under 19 billion pounds, compared with 18.7 billion pounds in 1943 and 14.1 billion pounds, the average for 1934-38. By regions, liveweight production of cattle and calves was greater in 1944 in all but the North Central and South Central States, where production declined slightly from the record high reached in 1943.

Production of hogs on a liveweight basis in 1944 was estimated at 20.8 billion pounds, a sharp decline from the record production in 1943, but still the third largest for any year of record. Liveweight production in 1944 was 30 percent greater than that of the pre-drought average for 1929-33. Net production of hogs declined sharply in all regions in 1944, with the greatest percentage reductions in the North Central, the South Central, and Western regions.

The liveweight production of sheep and lambs in 1944 was estimated at slightly under 2 billion pounds, compared with 2.1 billion in 1943. Production at the 1944 level was the lowest for any year since 1937. Liveweight production was lower in 1944 than in 1943 for all regions except in the South Central States, where production was up 10 percent from a year earlier.

GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

On May 18 the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion announced programs to encourage increased grain feeding of beef cattle, to increase the margins for processors of meat, to improve meat distribution, and to effect better control of the livestock ceiling price regulations. The programs were developed during discussions with the Office of Economic Stabilization, Office of Price Administration, War Food Administration, the Army, and the Defense Supplies Corporation.

Subsidy to Cattle Feeders

Effective May 19, 1945, the Commodity Credit Corporation will make a payment of 50 cents per 100 pounds to sellers of slaughter cattle bringing \$14.25 or more per 100 pounds, Chicago basis, weighing 800 pounds or more, which have been owned by the seller for 30 days. The lowest priced cattle for which payments will be made at all markets are the minimum stabilization range prices for the good grade under MPR 574. The minimum of the stabilization range price for good grade cattle at Chicago is \$14.25. Payments will be made by local AAA offices on sales evidence furnished by the seller.

The Government also has announced that there will be no downward revision in the over-riding ceilings or the maximums of the stabilization price ranges for beef cattle, except bulls, without at least 6 months advance notice. As the maximums and the minimums of the stabilization range for individual grades of cattle are not specific ceilings or supports, market prices may be above or below the stabilization ranges for individual grades during certain periods of the year.

Increased Slaughter Subsidy Payments

A new schedule of subsidy payments to cattle slaughterers will become effective June 4, representing an additional 25-cent per 100 pounds liveweight increase for all grades when cattle costs are at the maximum of the stabilization price range. The subsidy payments are subject to the withdrawal of 4 cents of the payment for each 5-cent decline in the average drove cost of individual slaughterers from the maximum to the minimum of the stabilization range. However, the maximum decrease in subsidy payments when the average drove cost of cattle is at the minimum of the stabilization range is \$1.20 per hundred pounds for all grades of cattle above common (Grade C). The new subsidy rates, when cattle costs are at the maximum or the minimum of the stabilization range, effective June 4, are as follows:

	Cattle Costs at Top of Cost Range	Cattle Costs at Bottom of Cost Range
Grade AA (Choice and Prime)	\$3.00	\$1.80
Grade A (Good)	2.95	1.75
Grade B (Medium)	1.90	.70
All other grades	1.25	.25

The above rates are applicable to both processing and nonprocessing slaughterers. Effective June 4, 1945, the additional subsidy for nonprocessing cattle slaughterers will be 40 cents per 100 pounds, liveweight. Subsidy rates for such slaughterers have been 80 cents per 100 pounds. The special nonprocessing subsidy is not subject to the withdrawal provisions depending on the average cost paid for cattle.

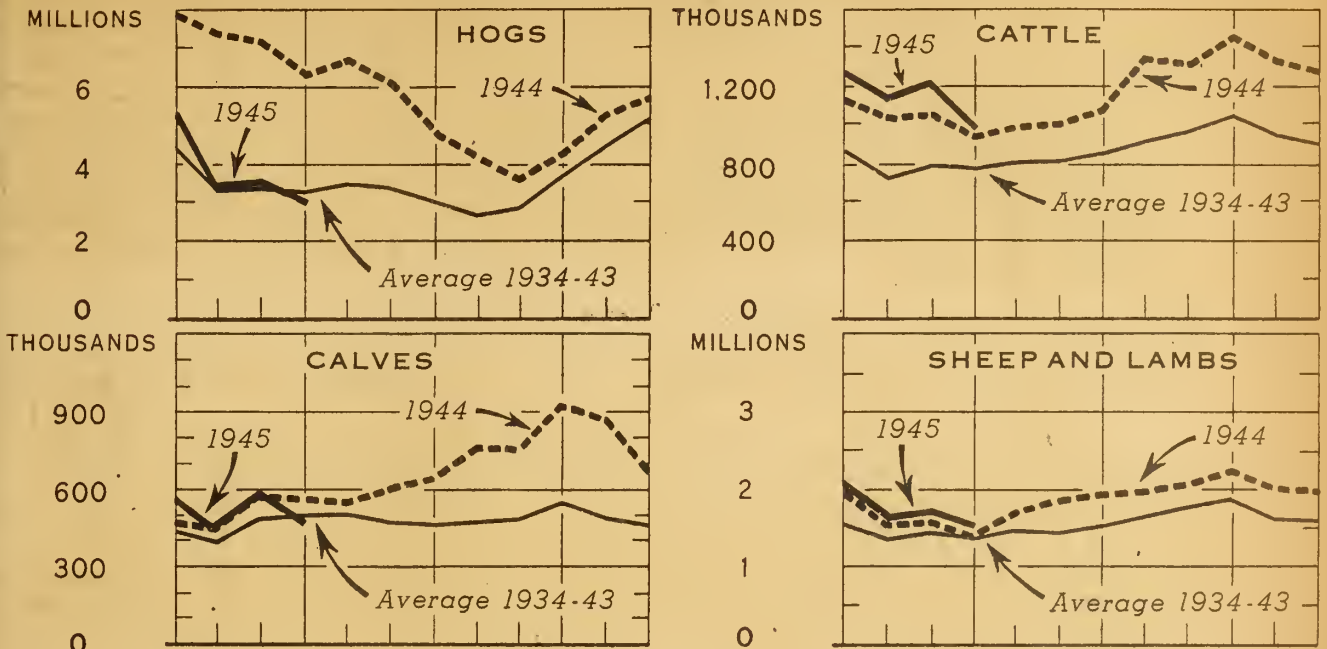
The Defense Supplies Corporation will increase hog subsidy payments 40 cents per 100 pounds liveweight, retroactive to April 1, 1945. The total payment per 100 pounds liveweight is thus increased from \$1.30 to \$1.70. This rate will continue in effect until completion of a more thorough accounting study by OPA, following which the payment rate will be adjusted (not retroactively), and a provision will be included for reduction of the subsidy as hog prices decline from the ceiling level.

New Meat Set-Aside

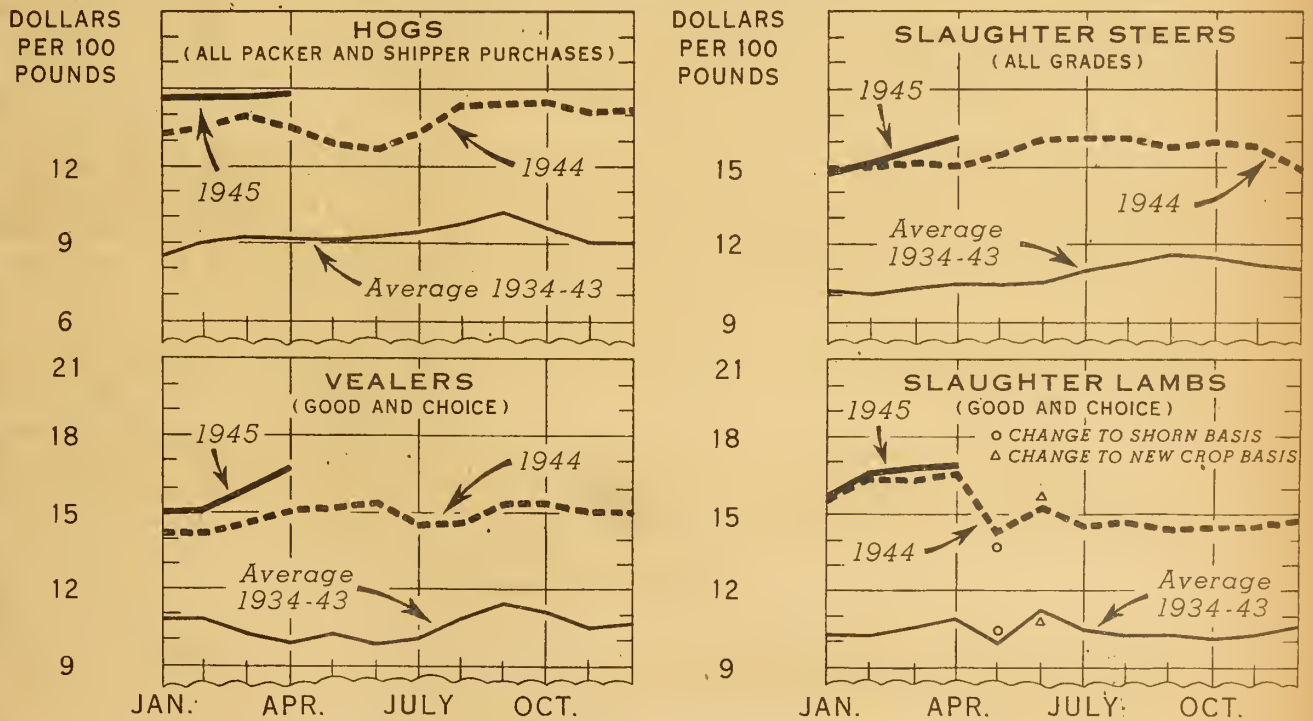
Set-aside orders for Government meat purchase will be adjusted by the War Food Administration so that a larger portion of Government requirements will come from those federally inspected plants slaughtering more than their normal proportion of the total slaughter. A differential set-aside will be developed, based upon the quantity of meat produced by individual slaughterers in relation to a representative base period. By taking a larger set-aside from plants whose operations have been greatly increased and a smaller part from those with a small slaughter, it is stated that more uniform distribution of available supplies to civilians will be achieved.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER AND PRICES

FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER, UNITED STATES*



MARKET PRICES AT CHICAGO



* INCLUDES SLAUGHTER IN "FULMER" PLANTS SINCE 1942, NOT PREVIOUSLY UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

FIGURE 2

Enforcement of Price Ceiling
Regulations on Livestock

The Office of Price Administration and the War Food Administration are directed to develop a plan by June 15 whereby the movement of livestock through public stockyards and public sale yards can be traced, to effectuate compliance of the ceiling price regulations of live animals. Record-keeping requirements will be announced to aid in checking compliance of the slaughter control program already announced, and meat distribution programs now being prepared by the Office of Price Administration. Representatives of stockyard operators and livestock sales agencies are to be consulted in the preparation of the general plan.

Set-Aside on Veal and Lamb;
Beef and Pork Set-Asides Revised

Effective April 29 lamb and veal were added to the meats that federally inspected packers are required to set aside for Government purchase. No set-aside had previously been in operation for meat of these types. In the past, war agencies have filled their requirements through voluntary offers and through priorities. The veal set-aside applies to grade AA, A and B dressed carcasses weighing 60 to 275 pounds with the hide off. Slaughterers are required to hold temporarily 100 percent of their output and 35 percent will be purchased by war agencies. The set-aside on lamb is 25 percent of the dressed carcasses weighing 30 to 70 pounds of the AA, A, and B grades, but slaughterers must hold temporarily all of their output until Government buyers have made their selections. These amendments to the set-aside are contained in WFO 75-4 (veal) and WFO 75-5 (lamb).

Cow beef of good, commercial, and utility grade and utility grade stag and bull beef were included in the beef set-aside (WFO 75-2) effective May 20, 1945. The over-all set-aside on army-style beef (cow, heifer, and steer carcasses of commercial grade or better) was lowered from 60 to 55 percent of the federally inspected output. The new set-aside will yield about the same quantity of beef as formerly, because of the redefinition of army-style beef to include beef from bulls and stags and good and commercial cow beef. The 90 percent set-aside on canner and cutter beef was unchanged.

The pork set-aside was clarified by a revision, effective May 20 specifically to include pork from hogs killed on a custom basis in federally inspected plants (Amendment 14 to WFO 75-3).

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Federally Inspected Hog Slaughter in
April 53 Percent Less Than a
Year Earlier

Slaughter of hogs in comparable federally inspected plants in April was 12 percent less than in March and was 53 percent less than in April 1944. Inspected plant slaughter during the first 4 months of the year totaled 14.2 million head, in comparable plants 48 percent less than the record large slaughter during the same period in 1944.

The average weight of hogs slaughtered under Federal inspection during April was 257 pounds, 17 pounds heavier than a year earlier and 3 pounds heavier than the record weight for the month in 1943. The average weight of barrows and gilts at 7 markets for the week ended May 19 was 264 pounds compared with 233 pounds a year earlier and 249 pounds for the corresponding week in 1943.

Prices for practically all weights and grades of hogs continued at the ceilings at all markets. Prices have been relatively unchanged at this level since mid-July 1944, except in November and December 1944, when prices fell below the ceilings. The average price received by farmers for hogs in mid-May was \$14.10 per 100 pounds, unchanged from a month earlier and \$1.40 higher than a year earlier.

April Cattle Slaughter Down 21 Percent From
March; Prices Relatively Unchanged

Federally inspected cattle slaughter during the first quarter of the year was 4 percent greater than a year earlier (in comparable plants), but April slaughter was 6 percent less than in April 1944. April slaughter under Federal inspection was 21 percent less than in March, a greater-than-usual decline. Cattle slaughter in noninspected commercial plants was 25 percent greater in January than a year earlier, and 37 percent greater in February than a year earlier. Data for later months are not yet available.

Federally inspected calf slaughter in April was 19 percent less than a month earlier and was 21 percent less than a year earlier. Calf slaughter in federally inspected plants in January-April totaled 1.8 million head, 6 percent less than the record slaughter of a year earlier (in comparable plants). Non-inspected calf slaughter was 42 percent greater in January, and 40 percent greater in February than a year earlier.

Fed cattle marketings in March and April made up a seasonally large proportion of cattle marketings. However, the April movement of cattle from the West was larger than a year ago. The movement of cattle to Pacific Coast packing centers was also large. Prices of fed cattle in mid-April were little changed from those of a month earlier, but were substantially higher than a year earlier. The top price for cattle at Chicago during the first 3 weeks of May was \$17.90 per 100 pounds, within 10 cents of the over-all ceiling. A few carloads of the best heifers as well as steers accounted for this figure. The average price for good grade steers at Chicago for the week ended May 19 was \$16.03 compared with \$15.99 a month earlier and \$15.80 a year earlier. During the same week prices for common steers at Chicago averaged \$12.47, an increase of 20 cents from a month earlier, but 36 cents less than a year earlier.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle to 8 Corn Belt States in April were 136,433 head, 20 percent greater than in March and 62 percent greater than a year earlier. Shipments of cattle to feed in the 8 Corn Belt States during the first 4 months of the year totaled 435,526, almost 116,000 more than in the corresponding period of 1944 but 33,000 less than the large shipments during the first 4 months of 1943.

Table 5.- Stocker and feeder cattle received
in 8 Corn Belt States, 1942-45 1/

Month	1942	1943	1944	1945
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
January	123	104	92	113
February	79	85	71	72
March	103	138	73	113
April	154	142	84	136
May	115	99	74	
June	99	81	106	
July	91	64	105	
August	222	160	236	
September	387	400	367	
October	579	546	525	
November	391	382	376	
December	223	162	170	
Total	2,564	2,363	2,280	

1/ The eight Corn Belt States are Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska.

April Sheep and Lamb Slaughter 5 Percent Greater Than a Year Earlier

As in the preceding 3-month period, sheep and lamb slaughter in April continued larger than in the same period of 1944. The 4 months total in comparable federally inspected plants was 6 percent greater than in 1944 and set an all-time high for the season. April slaughter under Federal inspection (comparable plants) was 16 percent less than in March, but was 5 percent greater than a year earlier. Sheep slaughter in April continued large but most of the increase this year over last was accounted for by marketings of spring lambs from Texas and California and shorn yearlings from Texas. Marketings of lambs from wheat fields of Kansas were relatively large. Practically all of the California and Arizona lambs in slaughter condition are being slaughtered in California.

The fed lamb season is largely over, and the crop was marketed at the best average price since 1929. The average price for Good and Choice wooled lambs at Chicago for the week ended May 19 was \$15.67, compared with \$17.06 a year earlier, and \$15.50 a year earlier. Lower prices than a month earlier reflect the lower quality of marketings at the close of the season and the seasonal increase in marketings of spring lambs. The average price for good and choice grade shorn slaughter ewes at Chicago during the week ended May 19 was \$8.08, almost \$1.00 higher than a year earlier.

May 1 Meat Stocks a Record Low

Commercial storage stocks of meat and edible offals in public warehouse and meat-packing plants increased almost 9 million pounds from April 1 to May 1, reflecting an into-storage movement of beef and veal and sausage and sausage room products not fully offset by declines other classes of meat in storage.

Total meat stocks at the first of May were reported at 573 million pounds compared with the near-record stocks a year earlier of 1,208 million pounds and average May 1 stocks in 1940-44 of 894 million pounds. Meat stocks in cold storage on May 1 this year were the lowest for the month in 29 years of record.

Table 6.- Cold storage holdings of meat and edible offals in commercial cold storage warehouses and meat packing plants, May 1, 1945 with comparisons

Commodity	Average May 1, 1940-44	May 1, 1944	April 1, 1945	May 1, 1945
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Beef	127.7	271.0	152.6	191.1
Pork	657.9	784.8	325.5	298.0
Lamb and mutton	8.8	16.7	15.3	11.7
Veal	---	---	5.2	5.8
Sausage and sausage room products	---	---	22.3	25.3
Canned meats and meat products:	---	---	17.0	16.9
All edible offal	99.3	135.5	26.3	23.7
<u>Total all meats 1/</u>	<u>893.6</u>	<u>1,208.0</u>	<u>564.1</u>	<u>572.6</u>

1/ 1945 figures not comparable with last year and 5-year average.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Wool Consumption to Continue High

Victory in Europe has not changed the outlook for a continuing high rate of apparel wool consumption in 1945. During the first half of the year the greater part of mill output has been required for military use, and production of civilian fabrics has been small. Thus a high rate of production will be required to replenish inventories of civilian goods after military requirements have been met. Production of wool fabrics for Army use in the first half of 1945, based on scheduled deliveries, is expected to equal production of such fabrics for the entire year 1944. Large additional quantities have been ordered for third quarter delivery, and anticipated total Army requirements for 1945 were reported in April to be twice as large as 1944 requirements. Even if the Army purchase program is curtailed with the shift of operations to the Pacific, production of military fabrics in 1945 will be considerably larger than the 1944 production. Since little decline in civilian consumer demand is anticipated in 1945, total military and civilian demand seems likely to be large enough to support a 1945 consumption at least equal to that of 1944.

Weekly Average Rate of Consumption at New Peak in February

Weekly average mill consumption of apparel wool reached a new peak of 12.8 million pounds (scoured basis) in February. This was 5 percent higher than the January rate and 9 percent higher than in February 1944. Little change from the February record rate was indicated for March. In an effort to increase the production of wool fabrics for military and essential civilian

requirements, all woolen and worsted mill operations up to and including weaving, knitting, and felting (except operations for the production of flour coverings or upholstery fabrics) have now been placed on the National production urgency list, to assist mills in securing skilled labor. If this and other measures taken by the Army and WPB are successful in increasing production, the January-June consumption of apparel wool this year may equal the January-June 1943 record consumption of 563 million pounds, grease basis. Even if consumption declines during the latter part of the year, total 1945 consumption seems likely to be close to the 1944 total of 1 billion pounds, grease basis.

Wool Industry Using Larger
Percentage of New Wool

Machinery activity in the apparel wool-manufacturing industry has declined considerably during the last 2 years. Weekly average spindle activity of 206 million hours in February 1945 was 16 percent below the record activity in February and March 1943. The decline in activity has been accompanied by a corresponding decline in the total fiber consumption by this industry. Consumption of all fibers (except fibers used in floor coverings and related products) in February 1945 was 14 percent smaller than in February 1943. Since the summer of 1944, however, new wool and wool tops have formed an increasing percentage of the total fibers used by the woolen and worsted industry. The percentage of new wool and wool tops in the total increased from 54 percent in August 1944 to 61 percent in February 1945. This compares with 54 percent in both February 1943 and 1944 and an annual average of 53 percent for 1943 and 56 percent for 1944. The increase in the percentage of new wool and wool tops in the total fiber consumption of the woolen and worsted industry has led to a new record high rate of apparel wool consumption, despite the over-all decline in machinery activity.

The recent increase in the percentage of new wool in total fiber consumption of the woolen and worsted industry probably is due in large part to the large production of military fabrics--which are mostly all-wool fabrics--and the decline in production of civilian fabrics. Thus the shift to production of civilian fabrics, as military requirements drop, would be likely to result in some decline in raw wool consumption, even if over-all machinery activity and fiber consumption could be maintained about at the present level.

Such decline in new wool consumption would be accentuated if manufacturers should resort to the use of increasing quantities of reworked and reused wool and non-wool fibers, to reduce costs of civilian fabrics, as a result of the medium and low priced clothing programs recently instituted by WPB and OPA. In planning civilian production, however, mills are required to take into account the requirements of the Wool Products Labelling Act, which calls for correct labelling as to fiber content, of all manufactured wool products. Mills also will consider the possibility of unfavorable consumer reaction to increased use of substitute fibers, as civilian fabrics become available in larger quantity.

Weekly average consumption of wool and other fibers, and spindle activity in the woolen and worsted sections of the industry by months, 1943-45 are shown in figure 3.

Table 7.- Consumption of textile fibers in the United States
apparel wool industry, 1943-45

Period	New wool and wool tops	Wool noils; reworked and reused wool ^{1/}	Mohair, alpaca and related fibers.	Non-wool fibers ^{2/}	Total all fibers	Percentage new wool and wool tops are of all fibers
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	Percent
Total						
1943 ^{3/}	564,232	276,205	35,484	197,764	1,073,685	52.6
1944	539,328	242,734	26,236	158,515	966,813	55.8
Weekly						
Average						
1944						
Jan.	10,564	5,252	604	3,410	19,830	53.3
Feb.	10,862	5,198	611	3,294	19,965	54.4
Mar.	10,908	4,899	601	3,392	19,800	55.1
Apr.	10,888	4,976	523	3,467	19,854	54.8
May	10,914	4,877	565	3,480	19,836	55.0
June	9,916	4,435	493	3,171	18,015	55.0
July	8,818	4,063	430	2,990	16,301	54.1
Aug.	9,999	4,750	456	3,411	18,616	53.7
Sept.	9,789	4,305	425	3,131	17,650	55.5
Oct.	10,985	4,724	471	3,204	19,384	56.7
Nov.	10,683	4,568	460	3,054	18,765	56.9
Dec.	10,292	4,196	432	2,697	17,617	58.4
1945						
Jan.	11,242	4,174	426	2,775	18,617	60.4
Feb. ^{4/}	11,752	4,198	427	2,832	19,209	61.2

1/ Includes laps, sliver, and roving waste and recovered fiber.

2/ Rayon and rayon waste, cotton and cotton waste and other non-wool fibers. Also includes a small quantity of mohair and mohair waste and common goat hair which was not reported separately.

3/ 53-week total.

4/ Preliminary

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Restrictions on Use of Wool Tops Extended to August 18

Since January 14, the use of wool tops has been restricted to fabrics produced for the military services or other Government agencies and certain essential civilian fabrics, all of which have been assigned WPB priority ratings. These restrictions, originally due to expire on June 2, have been extended to August 18, owing to the continued urgent need of wool tops for the production of military fabrics. Direction 3 to Conservation Order M-73, amended May 2, provides that no person shall produce wool tops in grades finer than 44s or kid mohair tops, between May 3 and July 14, 1945 except to fill orders bearing a rating of AA-3 or higher, and no person shall produce wool tops in grades 44s or lower, except to fill rated orders or orders bearing a certification as provided by paragraph (g) of General Preference Order M-388. During the period May 3 to August 18, 1945 no person shall put into

process any wool tops in grades finer than 44s or tops made from kid mohair except to produce yarn to fill orders bearing a rating of AA-3 or higher, and no person shall put into process any wool tops in grades 44s and lower, except to produce yarn to fill rated orders or orders bearing a certificate as provided by paragraph (g) of Preference Order M-388.

1945 Wool Clip Now Being Appraised

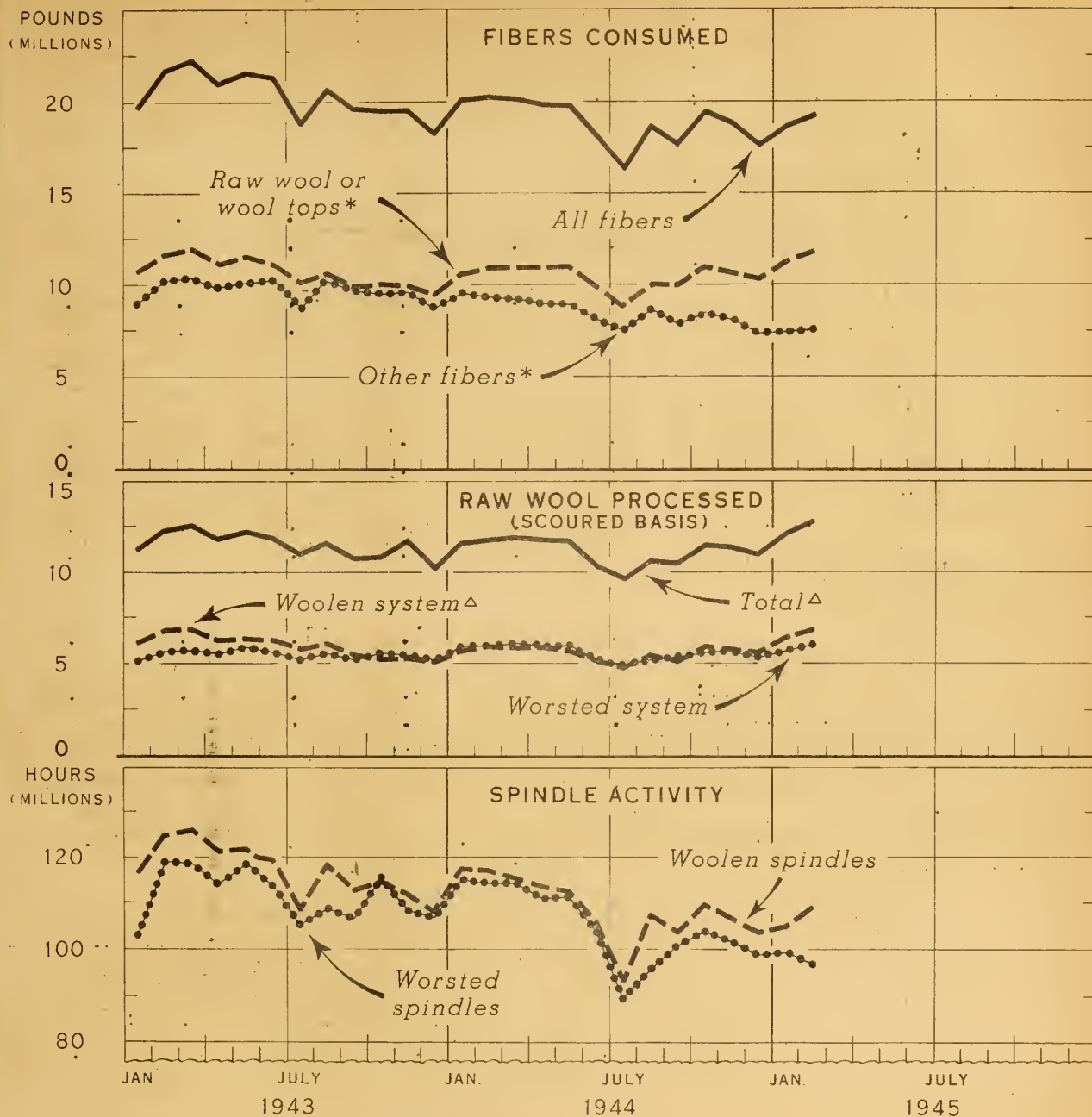
Through May 12 only 27 million pounds of shorn wool had been appraised for CCC purchase under the 1945 purchase program. The 1945 wool clip is now moving more rapidly to appraisal centers and appraisals probably will increase rapidly in June and July. The average price received by farmers for wool in April was 40.4 cents a pound. This compared with 39.9 cents in March and a revised average of 41.6 cents for April 1944. The 12-month weighted average for 1944 was 42.4 cents a pound. The CCC is supporting the 1945 clip at clean prices which are substantially the same as in 1944. Prices received by farmers for grease wool, however, vary with changes in quality, shrinkage, and location of the wools sold.

DSC Stockpile Wools Withdrawn From Market

Remaining supplies of about 60 million pounds of foreign stockpile wool owned by the Defense Supplies Corporation were withdrawn from public sale on May 10. It is probable that this wool will be disposed of to foreign countries under lend-lease arrangements. This will conclude the sale by the DSC of the entire US-owned stockpile, which originally totaled about 330 million pounds. Most of the wool has been sold to mills and dealers in this country at prices in line with current selling prices of similar imported wools. Wool from the British-owned stockpile in the United States has been sold by the British Government to France and Belgium and is now being shipped to those countries. Except for a small quantity which was exchanged for a like amount of United States-owned stockpile wool, none of the British-owned wool has been released for commercial use in the United States.

FIBER CONSUMPTION AND SPINDLE ACTIVITY IN THE UNITED STATES APPAREL WOOL INDUSTRY, 1943-45

WEEKLY AVERAGES FOR EACH MONTH



* CONSUMPTION OF WOOL NOILS AND REWORKED AND REUSED WOOL INCLUDED WITH "OTHER FIBERS"

△ INCLUDES WOOL CONSUMED IN BATTING AND FELT MANUFACTURES AND ON COTTON SYSTEM OF SPINNING
DATA FROM THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

FIGURE 3.

A marked decline in spindle activity in the apparel wool industry during the last 2 years has been accompanied by a corresponding decline in total fiber consumption by this industry. Since the summer of 1944, however, the use of wool and wool tops has increased, while the use of other fibers has not changed much. Weekly average consumption of apparel wool reached a new peak in February 1945, when it was 4 percent above the previous high for February.

Prices per pound of wool and other textile fibers, United States, 1942-45

	Annual Average			1944		1945	
	1942	1943	1944	Apr.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Prices received by farmers, :							
grease basis, 15th of month; :	40.1	41.6	42.4	39.7	40.4	39.9	40.4
Boston market: :							
Territory, scoured basis- :							
64s, 70s, 80s, staple combing: :	119.1	117.8	119.0	119.0	119.0	119.0	119.0
56s combing: :	102.6	104.2	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.5
Bright fleece, greasy- :							
64s, 70s, 80s delaine: :	47.2	46.9	47.0	47.0	47.5	47.5	47.5
56s combing: :	51.8	54.2	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5
Foreign wool, in bond: :							
Scoured basis- :							
Australian 64s, 70s good : :							
top-making 1/: :	75.4	75.9	72.1	72.6	75.0	75.5	75.5
Cape, short combing: :	72.8	72.5	72.5	72.5	72.5	72.5	72.5
Grease basis- :							
Montevideo 60-64s: :	43.0	41.4	39.4	39.5	39.2	39.2	39.4
Montevideo 1s (56s): :	42.5	41.4	40.7	41.5	41.5	42.5	42.5
Other textile fibers: :							
Cotton, 15/16-inch : :							
Middling 2/: :	19.3	20.6	21.2	21.0	21.6	21.8	22.1
Rayon staple fiber 3/.....: :							
Viscose 1-1/2 denier: :	25.0	24.4	24.8	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
Acetate 5 denier: :	43.0	43.0	41.9	43.0	38.0	38.0	38.0

Domestic wool prices are from the War Food Administration; foreign wool prices are from the Boston Commercial Bulletin, except as otherwise noted, and are before payment of duty.

1/ Quotations from the War Food Administration. 2/ Average at 10 markets.

3/ F.o.b. producing plants, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Wool: Mill consumption in the United States, 1943-45

Item	Total		Weekly average			
	1943 1/	1944	1944		1945	
	1,000	1,000	Jan. 2/	Feb. 2/	Jan. 3/	Feb. 2/
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
Grease basis :						
Apparel wool - :						
Domestic: :	430,456	318,250	5,829	5,648	8,326	8,317
Foreign: :	630,968	690,555	14,226	14,526	13,379	14,340
Total: :	1,061,424	1,008,805	20,055	20,174	21,705	22,657
Carpet wool: :	43,732	60,859	1,061	1,006	1,237	1,094
Scoured basis; :						
Apparel wool - :						
Domestic: :	203,580	150,638	2,828	2,734	3,979	3,990
Foreign: :	388,284	426,246	8,731	8,993	8,164	8,803
Total: :	591,864	576,884	11,559	11,727	12,143	12,793
Carpet wool: :	32,240	45,539	782	754	898	799

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

1/ 52 week totals based on weekly averages for reporting year.

2/ 4-week period.

3/ 5-week period.

April 1945, with comparisons

1/ Cents per bushel. 2/ Number of bushels of corn equivalent in value of 100 pounds of live hogs. 3/ Bureau of Labor Statistics, converted to 1924-29 base. 4/ Bureau of Agricultural Economics 1924-29 = 100.

Livestock: Marketings and slaughter statistics, by species
April 1945, with comparisons

Item	Unit	Jan.-Apr. : 1944 : 1945					
		1943	1944	1945	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.
Cattle and calves -							
Number slaughtered under Federal inspection:							
Steers	Thous.	1,872	2,230	2,258	548	645	569
Cows and heifers	"	1,513	1,800	2,210	349	525	378
All cattle	"	3,500	4,179	4,624	939	1,213	979
Calves	"	1,446	2,029	2,054	555	575	477
Percentage cows and heifers are of total cattle	Pct.	43.2	43.1	47.8	37.2	43.3	38.6
Average live weight:							
Cattle	Lb.	978	976	962	972	972	972
Calves	"	171	170	175	167	162	161
Total dressed weight:							
Cattle	Mil. lb.	1,876	2,181	2,359	495	633	518
Calves	" "	138	191	199	52	52	44
Shipments of feeder cattle and calves to eight Corn Belt States 1/	Thous.	468	320	436	84	113	136
Hogs -							
Number slaughtered under Federal inspection:							
Average live weight	Lb.	253	245	249	240	251	257
Percentage packing sows are of all purchases at seven markets	Pct.	6	6	4	5	4	3
Total production under Federal inspection:							
Pork	Mil. lb.	2,806	3,938	2,238	837	524	472
Lard 2/	" "	585	996	444	222	100	94
Average yield per hog							
Pork	Lb.	148.9	137.6	148.6	133.4	151.4	154.3
Lard 2/	"	31.1	34.8	29.5	35.4	28.9	30.6
Cold storage stocks end of month:							
Pork	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	785	326	3/298
Lard 2/	" "	---	---	---	498	50	3/ 53
Sheep and lambs-							
Number slaughtered under Federal inspection	Thous.	6,176	6,350	6,926	1,378	1,723	1,507
Average live weight	Lb.	94	94	97	94	98	97
Total dressed weight	Mil. lb.	264	271	305	59	76	67
Feeder sheep and lambs shipments to eight Corn Belt States 1/	Thous.	729	386	391	66	103	80
Total dressed weight of Livestock slaughtered under Federal inspection	Mil. lb.	5,887	7,945	5,710	1,746	1,424	1,229

1/ Total shipments direct from public stockyards to Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska. 2/ Including rendered pork fat. 3/ Preliminary 1945 data for pork stocks not entirely comparable with earlier figures.